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GENERAL NO. 628

1. Belgian views on North Atlantic Pact--Concerning plans for a North Atlantic Pact, a high Belgian official has informed US Embassy Brussels that the Foreign Office: (a) believes the geographic scope of the pact should be "European, North American, and the Atlantic area lying between;" (b) opposes the inclusion of Italy, North Africa, and other Mediterranean areas and believes a Mediterranean regional arrangement should eventually be established; (c) prefers to have the pact come into force only upon ratification by all signatories, including the US and France; and (d) hopes for a treaty of the longest possible duration. S - TS

2. Scandinavians to seek delay in bids for Washington talks--According to US Ambassador Matthews, Swedish Foreign Minister Unden has told the Dutch Minister in Stockholm that Norway and Denmark have both agreed to ask the US not to extend invitations for Scandinavian participation in the forthcoming North Atlantic Pact talks until current Nordic defense talks and subsequent political discussions have been concluded, sometime around 1 February. Unden also declared that Sweden would not join any association of western powers and would not join a Scandinavian defense pact which permitted any of its members any outside affiliation. S - TS

3. US views on recent Portuguese memorandum--The Department of State has instructed US Ambassador MacVeagh in Lisbon to present to the Portuguese Government the following comments concerning its recently expressed views on a North Atlantic Pact: (a) the US favors such measures for S - TS

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FAR EAST

3. CHINA: French favor support of Chinese anti-Communists -- US Embassy Nanking reports the comment of the French Ambassador to China, concerning the recent Nationalist request for mediation, that it is to the French interest to support any Chinese regime which resists Communism. The French Ambassador remarked that such a policy was necessary because of the repercussions which would be created in Indochina by a Communist regime in China. He added that even though anti-Communist resistance would inevitably collapse, France would gain time by supporting it. S - S

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